

# King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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Editor and Business Manager, Rev. S. A. Baker.  
Committee—Rev. S. A. Baker, H. C. Archer, P.  
J. Trafton and Mr. B. N. Goodspeed.

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## Editorial.

### THE PASTOR.

Much has been written and more has been spoken, of the pastor and his office. No class of men on earth hold as influential and responsible positions as pastors. There are none who receive their appointments from a higher power than true pastors. The Holy Spirit speaking by Jeremiah, said: "I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." "I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord."

Paul also, writing his epistle to the Ephesians, said, "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

The above quotations are sufficient to establish the pastor's high calling. Paul said, "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision."

It is not our object to arraign the pastors, for the writer is painfully conscious of defects in fulfilling the duties of a pastor, but in a brotherly way to stir up pure minds, and in some way hope to be helpful to the brethren. And in doing this we must recognize a general fact, viz., there are many excellent preachers who are very poor pastors, and many excellent pastors who come short of being great preachers, and we fear there are some who are deficient in both, but still are good men with good motives.

But at the same time we in honesty must acknowledge that there exist needless defects

in pastors as preachers, and also in their faithfulness to pastoral duties, and to speak plain English these defects are largely due to culpable laziness, either mental or constitutional. Mental laziness is a serious defect in a preacher, for it is impossible to give out, if we take nothing in. A barren mind before a congregation is as sad a picture as an empty table set before a hungry company of people. The disposition to read is more general among people than perhaps at any of the past ages, but there are a great variety of tastes as to the kind and quality of the reading. This is a crucial point with the pastor or preacher. What he likes, and what will be truly beneficial to him may be widely apart. What may interest him and what may fit him for his duties may differ so widely that it will require a decided effort for him to turn from the line of reading he enjoys to that which his services press upon him. It is said of young ministers by members of their congregations, They don't read, or, He has nothing new and fresh for us.

Another vital phase of the pastor's fitting is prayer, or real communion with his Lord. There is a danger with some of overcrowding the mind with reading, and neglecting the greater fitting of being closeted much with the Lord. The successful pastor, through the aid of the Holy Spirit, can find the proper relationship between these two great essentials of his fitting for his work. A few may get the idea that prayer will make up for their lack in the acquired knowledge already referred to, but less make this mistake than those who feed the mind and starve their souls.

The general complaint about pastors is their neglect of pastoral calling. Most pastors have a large supply of threadbare excuses on this line. This, like all other questions, has two or more sides, but to this charge most of us must plead, to a considerable extent, guilty. We have just clipped from an exchange the following article with which we will conclude for this time, and will take up other features of the subject later on.

### PASTORAL VISITING.

Pastoral visiting is a duty of every pastor. His members and people generally expect the pastor to call now and then, and they should expect it. Man is a social being and responds to the touch of sympathy and helpfulness. The pastor who succeeds must keep in touch with his people, know their needs, their sorrows, their difficulties. So will he be better fitted to preach to them. The prophet Jeremiah charges the pastors of his day with "scattering the flock and neglecting to visit them." We heard of a pastor of a certain denomination, who on assuming the duties of a new charge, said: "I live in the parsonage. If anyone wants to see me come there," meaning that he did not intend to visit his people much. He may have been a student, a good preacher of the Word, but was out of touch with his people. Pastoral visiting, if engaged in in the right spirit, will be a means of grace to the pastor and will prove a blessing to the people. He will find subjects for sermons and things to encourage that cannot be found elsewhere. Many of God's faithful ones are discouraged and depressed, and a call by the pastor will quicken their hearts and inspire hope. Pastoral visits should usually be concluded with prayer. The Church is largely prayerless to-day. Few family altars are kept up, and the children in some homes scarcely know how to act when worship is held while the pastor calls. A pastoral call should have for its object something more than collecting benevolences, eating chicken dinners, etc. The

best part of a call is omitted if prayer is omitted, and it is feared some are slack about this. Several years ago while making our first round of calling on a new charge we called on a family, members of Church, and had prayer. On rising to leave the wife said to us, "You are the first pastor to pray in our house in twelve years." Think of it! And but recently, while calling and praying in the home of another member of our church, the wife said, "I am so glad you prayed; you are the first preacher who ever prayed in our house." Think again! It doesn't take long to read a portion of scripture and offer prayer. No longer than to talk of things less important. If I were a layman and my preacher called and didn't pray, I would do as some have done, give him a Bible, ask him to read and pray with me. A praying preacher will make praying laymen. Of course it is not always convenient to have worship, but generally it is, and we know of the blessing received and encouragement given by this simple exercise. It is a little old-fashioned in these days of hurry, but it still pays to "wait on the Lord and renew our strength" and be the means of strengthening others. Amen!

### AN OPEN LETTER TO MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL.

Rev. G. C. Finney, the great revivalist of years ago, propounded the following questions to ministers in his day. Are they not just as important now?

"Dear brethren, I beg of you not to be offended with me, but suffer me to speak the whole truth to you in love. Is it not true with many of you who are ministers, as well as laymen, that you have refused candidly to lay your mind open to reproof, to correction, to searching, and to the light of the whole gospel of Christ? Is it not true that you have resisted the reformation of your own heart and the efforts that have been made to revive the church and to elevate the standard of holiness within her borders? Have you not been more afraid of sanctification than you have of sin; and have you not resisted efforts that have been made to enlighten you and the churches over which you preside? May God help you, my brother, to be honest in answering these questions! Have you not in many instances, not only shut your own eyes against the light, but tried to keep the light from the eyes of others? Have you not refused to read what has been written on the subject of holiness in this life, and used an influence to prevent others from reading? Have you not even spoken against this subject, and spoken contemptuously of those whose hearts are laboring and agonizing and travailing in birth for the recovery of a backsliding church?"

"My brethren, these are plain questions. They are intended to be. Could I see you, I could ask you these questions on my knees; and, would it avail. I would wash your feet with my tears. My brethren, where are you, and where are your churches? What is your spiritual state? How stands the thermometer of your spirituality? Are you hot or cold or luke warm?"—From *Revival Fire*.

"No one can ask honestly or hopefully to be delivered from temptation unless he has himself honestly and firmly determined to do the best he can to keep out of it."

Seeing the Israelites lost the rest of Canaan through obstinacy and unbelief, let us be afraid lest we come short of the heavenly rest through the same cause.—Dr. A. Clarke.